GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:563
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Export of Basmati Rice
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum and value of basmati rice exported from the country to various countries including Iran during the last three years, country-wise;
(b) whether Iran has banned import of Indian basmati rice for the past four months and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government proposes to send a delegation to Iran to protect its big basmati rice market and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the other steps taken by the Government to boost the exports of basmati rice from the country particularly to Iran?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) Details of quantum and value of basmati rice exported from the country to various countries, including Iran, during the last three years (top 10 countries), are as under:

Quantity in lakh MT; Value in US$ Million

Country Name	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Saudi Arabia	8.26	1108.90	9.67	1188.23	9.49	842.22
Iran	14.40	1834.55	9.36	1108.50	6.95	571.19
UAE	1.48	196.51	2.79	314.76	6.12	475.18
Iraq	2.20	271.14	2.35	259.13	4.18	340.97
Kuwait	1.76	247.95	1.66	250.53	1.81	211.68
U K	1.19	130.73	1.36	147.63	1.88	143.14
U S A	1.03	143.86	0.89	132.30	1.21	131.55
Yemen Republic	1.47	183.94	1.74	196.15	1.42	110.49
Oman	0.43	58.63	0.56	68.83	1.05	92.84
Canada	0.29	37.97	0.26	37.51	0.36	38.49
Other Countries	5.03	650.73	6.37	814.69	5.97	519.64
Total	37.54	4864.91	37.02	4518.26	40.45	3477.39

Source: DGCI&S

(b) In order to protect its domestic paddy growers, Iran has been imposing temporary ban (usually from end July to early January of next year) on import of rice. The ban was imposed w.e.f. 21st July 2016. However, the ban is not India-specific.
(c) A 20-member trade delegation, led by the Chairman, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), visited Iran from January 28-30, 2017. Meetings were held with the Departments of Government of Iran and importers' association. A sales promotion event was organized on January 29, 2017, which was attended by about 250 participants, including media, Government officials and importers.
(d) APEDA directly, and through All India Rice Exporters Association, participates in trade fairs in Iran to promote export of Basmati rice along with other agro products. APEDA, under its plan scheme, also provides assistance to exporters for building up image of their brands through advertisement in print and electronic media.
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